Early January 1993

Dear Anti-Racist Skinhead or Skinhead Supporter,

Greetings from New York City! We're sending you this mailing because judging from your past work and what we know of you, we figured you'd be interested in a new Skinhead project that we're trying to get together. So without further adieu...

The situation for anti-racist skinheads looks really bad in North Amerikkka. From what we can grasp, things are only moderately bad in terms of nazi bonehead numbers here in the Northeast U.S. Other areas (the South, South West and West Coast in particular) seem to be all but lost, and if the recent events in Germany, Italy, France, etc. are any gauge of the bonehead situation, we're in for a coming shockwave that doesn't look pretty. We figure right about now the nazis are have more newspaper-clipping wallpaper than they can put up, and it's only a matter of time before they start getting braver and begin firebombings again here.

Unfortunately, thanks to the mainstream media, the nazis brutality and a lack of direction within our own scene, anti-racist skinheads seem smaller in numbers and more divided than ever before. Mention the word "skinhead" to almost any member of the mainstream public and they automatically think "violent racist". Our subculture has been all but stolen from us, and if we want to win it back from the boneheads and put a different, positive image in the public's head it's going to take a fight.

But what unity do anti-racist skinheads have? Sure, many of us look the same, listen to the same music, etc., and we all claim to be anti-racist, but there's been an awful lot of anti-racist skins who beat up queers, fuck with leftists & those exercising their right to burn the flag, supported the Gulf War, voted for Bush, etc. We, for one, want no unity with these idiots.

See, we figure the reason so many skins are becoming nazis, and the reason that our numbers are getting smaller is because the nazis are <u>revolutionary</u> and they're <u>angry</u>. What do most anti-racist skins offer some young, working-class kid who's getting fucked up by his/her parents, kicked around at school by teachers, beaten on by cops and being forced onto welfare because he/she can't find a job? We offer flying old glory, and going on about how Amerikkka is the greatest country in the world? That's no alternative! As one former NYC SHARP skin said on July 4th, 1989 after 75 skinheads trashed the "Anarchist Switchboard" (a local @ community space), attacked a homeless tent-city in Thompkins Sq. Park and put several flagburners in the hospital- "We're a more violent version of the Boy Scouts". Fuck that!

The nazis blame Blacks, Jews, Queers, Immigrants, etc. for our current recession. They have scapegoats. But any skinhead

with half a brain and a bit of tradition knows the real enemy;the Rich, the Corporations, the bosses and the politicians. It's time that we rethought our strategy for beating the Nazis and reclaiming what skinhead means.

OUR PROPOSAL

We want all the radical left skinheads to unite and get together. We want to create a network of Red & Anarchist Skin Heads that can offer something to the young kids in the scene. A network that can not only out-fight the nazis, but continue fighting the State for something real. We want to create better lives for ourselves, and spread the ideas of a united, international working class.

We've got a lot of suggestions on how to do this. Here's some we'll be doing in NYC in the next few months:

-RASH DECISIONS zine-A quarterly skinzine for Red & Anarchist Skins focusing on music, culture AND politics (First issue should be out in early spring '93)

-STAY TRUE-A monthly free traditional skinhead news sheet for the NYC area focusing on ska, non-bonehead Oi!, upcoming shows, reviews, etc. (We're trying to make this more accessible than the zine, so it probably won't talk much politics except for anti-racism.)

-STAY TRUE distribution-A non-profit distribution service for anti-racist skinhead zines, records/tapes, pins, shirts, videos, etc. We'll be doing mailorder, as well as selling through RECONSTRUCTION records (a local, cooperative record shop run by punk rockers). We will also be screening patches, shirts, etc., and selling them at low cost (to undermine scumbags like BLEEKER BOB'S records, etc.)

-SOCIAL EVENTS-Together with TRADS UNITED (A local, apolitical social club for mods, skins and rudies), we're putting together monthly, low cost "SKA UNITY DANCEHALLS" at ABC-NO-RIO (a local community center), and we plan on holding picnics, TRADS nights at local bars, etc.

-OTHER STUFF-We'd eventually like to do a record label, book tours for cool bands, organize and participate together in protests, and much, much more...

WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU

So we're just trying to feel out what other people think about forming a left-skin network to trade ideas, music, scene info, to have a good time and to win the war against the boneheads and the State. If you're a skinhead crew/zine/band or even an individual and would like to participate, write us with your address, and in the first issue of the zine we'll list you as a contact. So far, we only have people in Minneapolis, Chicago and New York, but if we're right this should catch on pretty

quickly.

If you're not a skinhead, but you support our efforts please publicize them. Send us any info. you think would be of interest to us (we're attempting to build up an info-base on the nazis). Send us clippings on skins in the newspapers, copies of anything you put out, and spread the word on what we're doing.

So that's all for now, but we hope to hear more from you soon. Even if you hate what we're saying, and think we should all be put up against a wall and shot because we're "anarcho-commie fags", we'd like to hear from you. Communication is the key.

In the Spirit of '69 but Kicking Ass in '92,

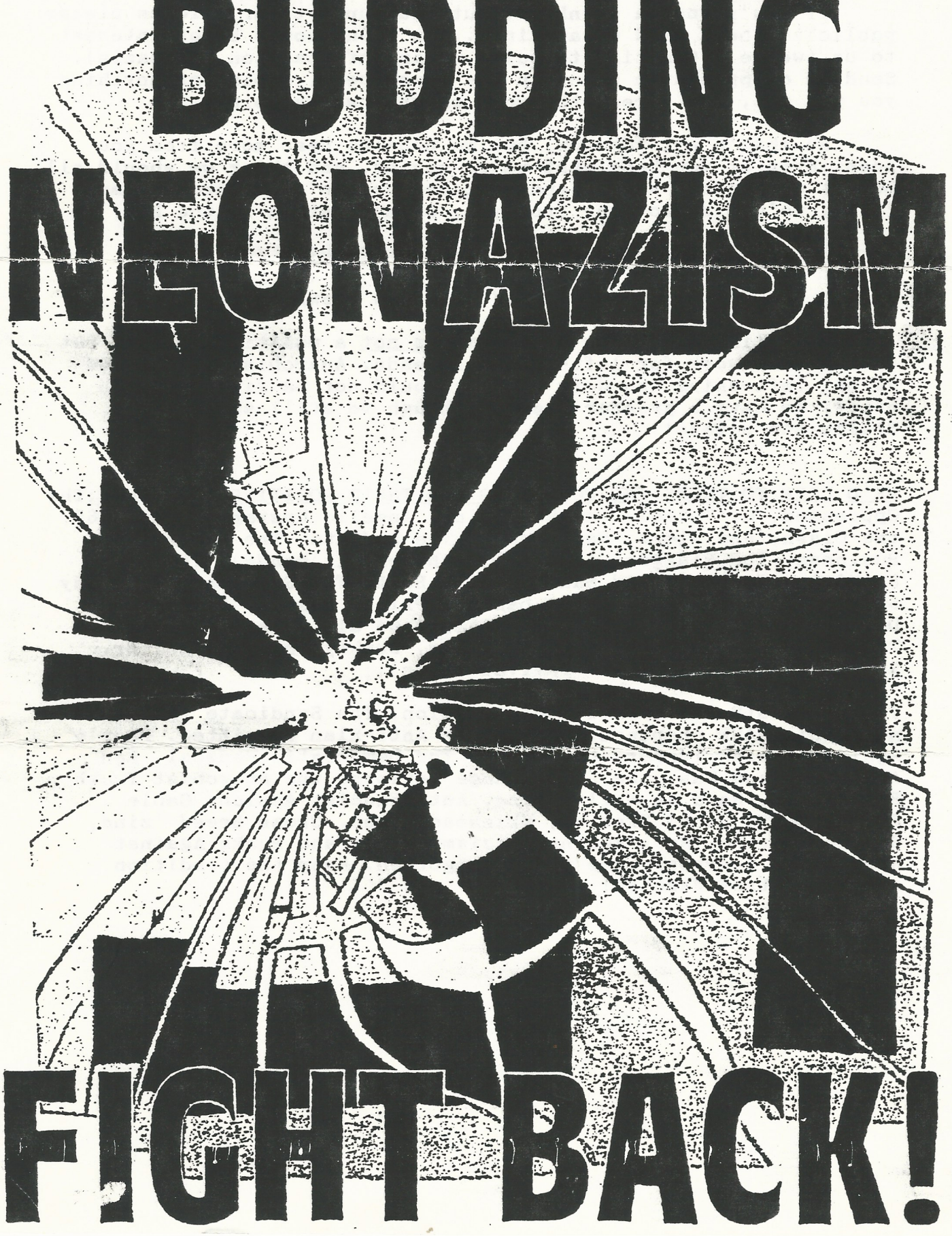
MAYDAY Skinhead Crew/R.A.S.H. NYC

We'd like to stress that this <u>is not</u> a political party, but rather a network for left-wing skinheads. Anarchist skins, red skins, left-skins who defy labels should not be fighting each other. We have a greater enemy...Though we still say No Stalinists please!

<u>WE'D LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR POSITIVE INFLUENCE:</u>The Oppressed, Oi Polloi, the Red Skins, Angelic Upstarts, Sham '69, the Clash, Red Alert, Red London, The Radicts, The Press, The Business, The Blaggers (and all right-on Oi! bands), The Specials, Madness, Bad Manners, The Beat, The Selecter, The Body Snatchers (and all two-tone bands), Prince Buster, Desmond Dekker, Andy & Joey, The Skatalites (and all 60's Ska!), The Toasters, The Boilers, The Scofflaws, Donkey Show, Skaos, Mr. Review (and all true Ska-revival bands);

The Baldies(R.I.P.)/Anti-Racist Action, The Syndicate (R.I.P.), all cool SHARP chapters, John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, People Against Racist Terror, the Center for Democratic Renewal, Red Action, Class Was, the Love & Rage Network, the Anarchist Youth Federation, Hard As Nails 'zine, Anti-Fascist Action, Cable Street Beat, Zoot! Skazine, Skinhead Times, Cross Breed 'zine, Skintonic zine, Rock Against Racism, Skins and Punks Against Racism and everyone else we've forgotten. Keep the tradition alive! Destroy Fascism!

SMASH THE BUDDING NEONAZISM



FIGHT BACK!